

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

FOR PLUMBERS



WORKPLACE FACT SHEET

KNOW THE DANGERS

Plumbers run the risk of receiving an electric shock when cutting metallic water pipes or replacing water meters. This fact sheet has been developed to help you understand why you may be at risk and what you can do to work safely.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE STARTING WORK

- Complete a risk assessment. This will identify hazards (including work practices and procedures) and help you implement appropriate control measures.
- If appropriate, inform the customer and isolate the electrical supply. Locate the main switch/es and turn them off attaching a "Do not operate" tag. Remember, this may not isolate all stray voltage.
- Know the location of underground or overhead power lines and their proximity to your work site before commencing digging or climbing. Dial **1100** or visit **www.1100.com.au** before you begin any digging work.
- Test water pipes with a self-testing voltage indicator for stray voltage.
- If the earth wire needs to be moved or disconnected, or shows signs of being damaged, or where any existing metallic pipe is to be replaced in part or in its entirety by plastic pipe or other non-metallic fittings or couplings, the work must not commence until the earthing requirements have been checked by an electrical contractor and modified, if necessary.

Call 131 081 and put safety first.
www.endeavourenergy.com.au

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE STARTING WORK

BRIDGE THE GAP, AVOID THE ZAP!

When cutting a water pipe, disconnecting a water heater or water meter it is important to provide an alternate circuit for electrical current to travel. Otherwise, it may travel through you!



5 STEPS TO SAVING YOUR LIFE

- 01** Test water pipes with an approved testing device to determine if there is any voltage in the pipes. If a voltage reading of 5 volts or above is detected, warn the customer and contact Endeavour Energy immediately as there is a problem with the electrical system.
- 02** Clean water pipe back to the bare metal on either side of the work area that you intend to cut/work on. This assists the bridging conductor to achieve a good connection.
- 03** Attach the bridging conductor to the cleaned pipe and secure it firmly ensuring both ends of it will not come loose during work. Do not work outside of the bridging conductor.
- 04** Complete the job whilst working inside the bridged area.
- 05** Remove the bridging conductor once all work inside the bridge has been completed including all joining work.

WHEN BRIDGING

- Every time, before using one, visually inspect the bridging conductor for any damage.
- Ensure bridging conductors have a current rating of no less than 70 amps.
- Ensure suitable bridging conductors with insulated screw type clamps are fitted for each end of the electrical bridging conductor.
- Ensure PPE is used, especially insulated electrical gloves (minimum 500 volts). Every time, prior to use, ensure gloves are checked for damage such as holes.
- Do not break or remove the bridge until all work on the bridged area is completed and continuity of the metallic service pipe is restored.
- Remember, the removal of a bridging conductor during work may result in electrocution.

OTHER WAYS TO MAKE YOUR WORKSITE "POWER SAFE"

- Find out about any work areas which may be hazardous for other reasons such as gas, water etc.
- Look for obvious signs of underground services such as conduits, pipes, warning tape, bricks or equipment.
- If required, arrange for the isolation of electricity supply or the application of insulating matting onto service and point of attachment by Endeavour Energy.
- If there are power lines near the worksite, install appropriate signage.

SAFETY EXCELLENCE

IN EMERGENCIES CALL 131 003

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

If you have any questions about what you should do to stay safe please call 131 081 or visit us at www.endeavourenergy.com.au